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United States. Congress. House. Committee on Agriculture

E. De la Garza

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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

(NR93-078)

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DE LA GARZA ANNOUNCES NAFTA HEARING FOR SEPT. 29, FOLLOW-UP HEARINGS PLANNED

For immediate release, Friday, Sept. 24, 1993

WASHINGTON -- Top Clinton Administration officials will appear before the House Agriculture Committee on Sept. 29 to discuss the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the recently-signed supplemental accords, and the implications of these agreements for the nation's economic future and the agricultural economy, announced Committee Chairman Kika de la Garza, D-Texas.

The hearing will be held Wednesday, Sept. 29, beginning at 2:00 p.m., in Room 1300 Longworth House Office Building in Washington. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy and EPA Administrator Carol Browner are expected to testify.

"There is a lot of misunderstanding and even a lack of knowledge around the country about what NAFTA does and does not do, as well as how it will affect our domestic economy. This hearing will provide Committee members an opportunity to discuss NAFTA and the supplemental agreements with these top Administration officials," said Rep. de la Garza.

The Committee is planning to hold follow-up hearings to hear from outside organizations, and Rep. de la Garza is soliciting written comments about the trade agreement and the issues that should be considered in the drafting of the implementing legislation.

"To help us draft the implementing legislation for NAFTA, I encourage interested groups to submit their written comments and suggestions to the Committee. We will schedule follow-up hearings in the coming weeks to allow a cross-section of groups interested in NAFTA to testify. If time permits, I am also hopeful we can schedule one or more field hearings to get input at the grassroots level," said Rep. de la Garza.

Written comments about NAFTA and its implications for U.S. agriculture and rural America to: Chairman Kika de la Garza, Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives, 1301 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515-6001.

The schedule for further hearings on NAFTA will be announced at a later time. For further information, contact Xavier Equihua of the Committee staff at 202-225-1867.

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NOTE: The House Agriculture Committee has available copies of the following new agriculture-related reports by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the General Accounting Office (GAO). Mail requests for copies to Jim Davis, 1301 LHOB, Washington, DC 20515. For more expeditious delivery you may fax requests to 202-225-3158:

CRS IB93025 Wetlands Issues in the 103rd Congress; [NOTE: This previously offered document was updated August 25, 1993.]

GAO/GGD-93-103 INTERNATIONAL TRADE, Effectiveness of Market Promotion Program Remains Unclear

GAO/PEMD-93-17 PESTICIDES, A Comparative Study of Industrialized Nations' Regulatory Systems

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